

1 What division do you represent?

I am the chair of the Public Service Division for MPA.

2 Tell us more about you!

I am an Early Career Psychologist and have been a member of MPA for two years now since moving to Minnesota to complete my Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology in 2016-2017. I became licensed in May of 2018 and currently work full time for Direct Care and Treatment – Forensic Services as a Forensic Psychologist. I complete a variety of forensic evaluations, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, general and sexual violence risk assessment, and repeat sex offender evaluations. I also currently teach Meta-Analysis for doctorate students and am a reviewer for a private Institutional Review Board (IRB). Some of my hobbies include doing research with colleagues in my free time (Yes, but it is fun! Meta-analytic research techniques are my favorite!), playing the clarinet in the Minnesota Valley Community Band, and playing tennis.



Meet Dr. Jennifer Lewey!

PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION

3 Who can join the division?

Anyone who is a member of MPA and who is interested in public service.

*Take the time
to invest in your
self-care*

4 Self-Care tips for students?

Make sure you have hobbies outside of psychology. School (and work) will undoubtedly keep you busy, and it's important that you take time to keep yourself healthy and active in things that you love. It will make you better (yes, better!) in the work that you do every day if you take the time to invest in your self-care.

5 What does your division do?

Our division has never really been active, so we are in uncharted territory. And, we have a strong membership in this division of 90! As chair, I am interested in learning more about the members of our division – more specifically, what areas of public service our members serve. I am looking forward to learning more about our members, as well as providing this as a resource to us for those interested in learning more about what opportunities there are in Minnesota. I'll also be reaching out to our division to seek their level of interest and consider possible activities.

6 What makes you most passionate about your division?

Much of my background in clinical training has been in public service working for various state correctional facilities, state hospitals, a low-income psychological services clinic, and for the court system involving defendants who encounter the legal system. I am also a very strong proponent for individuals with mental illness having access to evidence-based and empirically-supported treatments. In the public sector, there are so many different opportunities to serve others, including community and state hospitals, Veterans Affairs, juvenile and adult criminal justice, education, and police and public safety – and provide the full gamut of mental health services to those in need in our community. This is by no means an easy task and requires hard work in addition to time spent gaining professional knowledge in order to improve the lives of those you serve. Working in public service is indeed a clinical specialty and is very rewarding.

7 If you had unlimited grant money and could pick any topic in the world to research on, what would you pick?

That's easy. I would expand what I do at work on a larger scale. My current work aims to determine the effectiveness of an empirically-supported treatment known as *Michael's Game*, which is a card game for the treatment of delusional ideas. There is currently a dearth of specialized treatment modalities that target delusional thinking, and delusions are largely considered to be treatment-refractory. In addition, my research applies this treatment modality within the context of competency restoration, in the hopes that it can target the deficits in their rational thinking about their criminal case.

8 If your group was a seasoning, what would it be?

Salt and pepper. Not the most exotic of spices, but almost everyone uses them, they go with everything, and a little bit can go a long way.



Contact Dr. Lewey at jenniferhleweyphd@gmail.com if you want to be involved in the Public Service division!